

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: KING RAIL | *Railus elegans*
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): May 23, 1985Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: probably male Plumage: SummerLocality: LATHAM RESERVOIR Elevation: 4,669 FeetNearest town: LASALLE County: WELDTime(s) observed: 6:45 P.M. to 6:55 P.M. - HEARD until 7:45 P.M.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 10 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

NONE

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

NONE

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

excellent, Sun was out fully at my back. Bird was mostly in the sun

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7X50 BINOCULARSDistance, and how measured: 12 YARDS, measured from where bird was seen.If photographed, type of equipment and film: —Who else photographed the bird? —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Very territorial, reacted to tape recording of its song. Stayed in one spot for 10 minutes calling. Finally went back in the marsh and disappeared from view but continued to call until I left at 7:45 P.M.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

Coot size. Long slightly downcurved bill. Underparts were cinnamon, flanks with black and white bars. It was dark above with whitish or buffy streaks. Bill long slightly downcurved, cinnamon colored with dark tip. ALSO a Brownish-rusty colored cheeks. Rusty colored shoulders also apparent.

tion (continued):

17-85-12

Eyebrow buffy colored or tawny. Top of head darkish gray. I compared size with nearby coots, they were about the same. to even ~~smaller~~ SMALLER than this RAIL. Tail was rusty colored or cinnamon and sometimes would be in a 'raised' position: legs not seen.

2; I saw this bird on 5/12/85 but was a poor look and it answered my tape recorder on 5/17/85 but wouldn't appear. So I've been chasing it down for the last 11 days.

3; Scribe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): Typical call note was a continuous kik-kik-kik or also described as bup-bup-bup very deep and low. Twice it gave its full song a - harsh hee-hee-hee-tee going faster toward the end, very clattering and noisy.

4; Scribe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

a Bulrush-Cattail marsh, mainly cattails. Seen in HARD-STEMMED Bulrush.

5; Did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Virginia Rail - Almost twice as small. Cheeks contrasting gray

6; What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

This is my first sighting. I have heard them several times in the large marshes along NW ~~Ohio~~ Ohio along Lake Erie.

7; Books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

at time of observation: NATIONAL Geographic Society - Field Guide to Birds of North America.

8; After observation:

None

I MADE NOTES DURING THE OBSERVATION AND WROTE THIS REPORT
ABOUT 45 MINUTES LATER.

This report was written from reports made during May 23, 1985, after observation ✓ from memory

Reporting observer: Jerry Cairo Signature: Jerry A. Cairo

Address: 2621 23rd Ave. #36 Greeley, Co. 80691

9; Reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: KING RAIL | RALLUS ELEGANS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): MAY 31, 1985Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: ADULTLocality: LOWER LATHAM RESEVOIR, SOUTH END Elevation: 4800'?Nearest town: LA SALLE County: WELDTime(s) observed: 4-45 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 2 10 second OBSERVATIONS

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

VIC ZERBI, 1118 RED MOUNTAIN DRIVE, GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

JERRY CAIRO, GREELEY, CO

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

HIGH, LIGHT OVERCAST, LIGHT GOOD BUT NOT DIRECT SUNLIGHT.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): (1) EYES AND (2) BINOCULARSDistance, and how measured: (1) 15' (2) 30'-40'

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Who else photographed the bird?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

BIRD WAS SEEN WALKING AT A MODERATE SPEED THROUGH TWO SECTIONS OF OPEN WATER IN BETWEEN AREAS OF QUITE TALL SEDGE IN A SMALL MARSH.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

WHEN FIRST SEEN THE BIRD WAS 15' AWAY AND I DID NOT USE BINOCULARS.

THE BIRD WAS CLEARLY A RAIL AND APPEARED VERY LARGE, ALMOST CHICKEN SIZED (NO DOUBT INFLUENCED BY CLOSE PROXIMITY). THE BIRD WAS CLEARLY A RAIL BECAUSE

escription (continued):

OF ;SHAPE + PEEP BODY , LONG NECK + PLUS VERY LONG BILL WHICH WAS VERY OBVIOUSLY ORANGE. THE WHITE OF THE FRONT OF THE BIRD WAS A BRIGHT RUST COLOR - THE BACK WAS BROWN. THE SECOND TIME I SAW IT , IT WAS WALKING AWAY. USING BINOCULARS , THE VERTICAL WHITE STRIPES ON THE FLANKS AND REAR OF THE BIRD WERE BRIGHT AND CLEARLY SEEN , WALKED THROUGH THE MARSH (AND DISAPPEARED IN THE SEDGE) AS ONLY A RAIL CAN . IT WAS BIG!!

escribe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

IN RESPONSE TO A TAPE , BIRD CRIED FROM 15' AND WAS VERY LOUD. LATER IT CRIED FROM SEDGE (APPARENTLY DEFENDING A TERRITORY ?) IN A LONG SERIES OF LOUD TICK NOTES - SEVEN OR EIGHT IN A SERIES AT A TIME.

escribe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

OPEN WATER PATCHES IN A FAIRLY SMALL SEDGE MARSH.

low did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

ELIMINATED CLAPPER RAIL ON BEING MUCH TO BRIGHTLY COLORED - RUST IN FRONT WHITE STRIPES ON FLANKS AND ON LOCATION (1000 MILES FROM OCEAN IN FRESH WATER). VIRGINIA + SORA RAILS ON SIZE AND CALL (TOO LARGE & TOO LOUD RESPECTIVELY).

hat is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS BIRD, HAVE SEEN CLAPPER RAILS TWICE ON THE TEXAS & FLORIDA COASTS. REGULAR EXPERIENCE WITH VIRGINIA & SORA RAILS IN COLORADO.

list books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NONE

b) after observation: LOOKED AT NAT. GEOGRAPHIC & GOLDEN FIELD GUIDES.

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: JUNE 2, 1985

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55, SOUTH 35th ST., BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205